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Message Text

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70
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 DRC-01

/155 W
---------- 067223
R 231650Z NOV 73
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2003
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 12994

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT ELAB IT
SUBJECT: UIL CRISIS - SECRETARIAT RECONFIRMED

REF: ROME 12520, MILAN 1788

1. AT ITS NOV 22 CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING THE UIL PATCHED OVER INTERNAL DIVISIONS AND RECONFIRMED WITHOUT DISSENT THE ENTIRE SECRETARIAT, INCLUDING SECGEN VANNI.

2. FOLLOWING RECONFIMRATION OF THE SECRETARIAT THE CENTRAL COM-MITTE THEN ACTED ON THE ORIGINAL SOCIALIST (RUFINO) RESOLUTION WHICH HAD PRECIPITATED THE CRISIS OF NOV 11-12. THIS TIME, RUFINO'S RES WAS PRESENTED AS A DOCUMENT OF THE MAJORITY PURSUANT TO A PREVIOUS AGREEMENT AMONG THE FACTIONS. VOTE COUNT WAS 70 IN
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FAVOR (48 SOCIALISTS AND 22 REPUBLICANS), 27 AGAINST(SOCIAL DEMO-

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CRATS) AND 6 ABSTENSIONS (THOSE REPUBLICANS CLOSEST TO PARTY SECRETARY LAMALFA'S POSITION, I.E., MINORITY GUARANTEES). FINAL VOTE WAS IN CONTRAST TO NOV 11 TALLY WHICH WAS 31 IN FAVOR (PSI), 21 AGAINST (PSDI) AND 25 ABSTENSIONS (PRI).

3. COMMENTS: THE UIL HAD NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO RAPIDLY END ITS IMMEDIATE CRISIS IF IT WAS TO CONTINUE VIABLE. INTERNAL DIVISIONS, HOWEVER, REMAIN AS ACUTE AS EVER. SOCIAL DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS NOW HOPE THAT THE UIL RES ON FACTORY COUNCILS, ACCORDING TO WHICH DELS WILL BE ELECTED BY ALL WORKERS, UNION AND NON-UNION ALIKE, AND WHICH PROVIDES FOR NO MINORITY GUARANTEES, WILL BE MODIFIED BY THE CISL AND THE CGIL WHEN THEY TAKE UP THE QUESTION. IN THIS VIEW THE UIL POSITION ON FACTORY COUNCILS IS ONLY A DRAFT. THE FINAL DOCUMENT WILL BE THAT OF THE FEDERATION CGIL, CISL AND UIL TO WHICH ALL THREE ORGS WILL THEN ADHERE. FOR THE MOST CONSERVATIVE ANTI-UNITY ELEMENTS OF THE UIL TO DEPEND ON POSSIBLE SUPPORT FROM THE CGIL OR EVEN CISL BECAUSE THEY LACK SUFFICENT FORCE IN THEIR OWN ORG IS INDICATIVE OF THAT STRANGE PHAS THROUGH WHICH ITALIAN TRADE UNIONISM IS PASSING.

4. IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE VOTE IS AN ADJUSTMENT TO REALITY WITHIN THE UIL AND AN AFFIRMATION OF SOCIALIST STRENGTH. ALTHOUGH RECONFIRMED, VANNI IS DEMONSTRABLY WEAKENED AND AT THIS POINT FAILS TO CONTROL EVEN THE REPUBLICAN FACTION. HE CAN GOVERN ONLY WITH THE SOCIALISTS. WHILE THE PSI CANNOT GOVERN ALONE, A NON-COOPERATIVE VANNI MIGHT SOON FIND THE PSI AND PART OF THE PSDI FACTION UNITING TO EJECT HIM. RUFINO IS SAID TO FEEL THAT "CONDITIONS ARE MATURING" AND THAT A SOCIALIST SECGEN (HIMSELF) IS IN THE CARDS SOONER OR LATER. ANOTHER SURPRISE CRISIS COULD COME ALMOST ANYTIME. FINALLY, THE AID, PSYCHOLOGICAL AT LEAST, THAT VANNI RECEIVED FROM CGIL AND CISL IN THIS CRISIS MAKES HIM A BIT LESS INDEPENDENT VIS-A-VIS LAMA AND STORTI. THE CRISIS IN GENERAL SERVED TO ERODE FURTHER THE UIL'S FORMAL POSITION AS AN EQUAL OF THE CISL AND THE CGIL. VOLPE

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